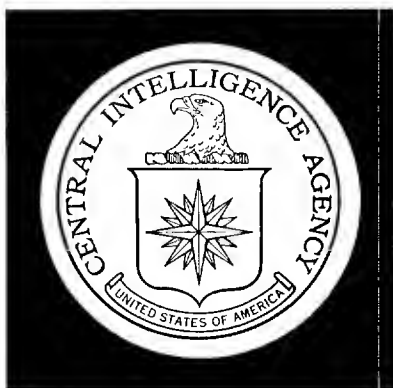


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Central Intelligence Bulletin

State Dept. review completed

Secret

№ 042

8 November 1971

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No. 0267/71
8 November 1971

Central Intelligence Bulletin

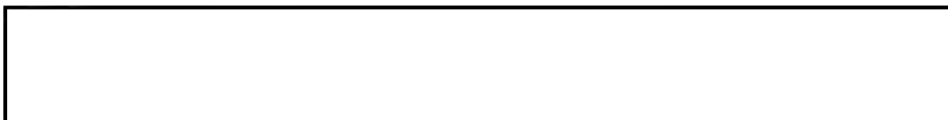
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USSR: The traditional speech on the anniversary of the Bolshevik Revolution was noteworthy mainly for the concern it manifested that the USSR's detente diplomacy may have damaged its revolutionary credentials both at home and abroad.

Although most of the speech, delivered by junior politburo member Viktor Grishin, reflected satisfaction with the course of the USSR's foreign and domestic policies, Grishin did seem at pains to demonstrate that Moscow's current "peace offensive" was not inconsistent with past Soviet foreign policy and did not mean any slackening in the Soviet ideological struggle against "imperialism." Grishin did not mention President Nixon's forthcoming visit to Moscow or otherwise comment on Soviet-American relations, except to note in discussing the USSR's various disarmament proposals that "known, positive results" have been achieved at SALT. He did, on the other hand, make the standard pitch for normalization of Sino-Soviet state relations.

In discussing the recent travels of Soviet leaders abroad, Grishin, not surprisingly, gave primary emphasis to party leader Brezhnev's recent visit to France. He also singled out the Berlin agreement and the improvement in Soviet - West German relations as important contributions to the progress of European detente, and noted that a Conference on European Security might be possible "as early as 1972."

The selection of Grishin is in keeping with the practice established after Khrushchev's ouster of rotating the honor of giving the anniversary address. Nevertheless, it is an indirect snub to the two more senior members of the politburo--Voronov and Shelepin--who have not yet been so honored.

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Action in East Pakistan



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PAKISTAN: UN relief efforts in East Pakistan are encountering growing hostility from the guerrilla fighters.

On 5 November, one of several US-financed coastal vessels, carrying foodgrain and clearly marked as engaged in UN relief operations, was damaged by an explosion near the port of Chandpur in East Pakistan. The guerrilla fighters in East Pakistan have become increasingly convinced that international relief efforts are not helping the majority of the Bengali people, and there are numerous reports that some aid is, in fact, being diverted to the exclusive benefit of the Pakistani Army and its supporters.

The attack on the UN vessel could indicate that some guerrilla groups--not necessarily those controlled by the Bangla Desh government--are initiating a policy of interfering with the UN operations. Shipping is a favorite guerrilla target, however. For example, a Pakistan coaster, which had also been carrying foodgrains, was sunk at Chandpur the previous Tuesday. In any event, tensions are running high and should the attack receive widespread publicity--if only as a demonstration of the saboteurs' growing prowess--other anti-UN guerrillas may be stimulated to follow suit. As a result of a UN/USAID request, all UN-marked vessels are to sail to East Pakistan ports without military guards.

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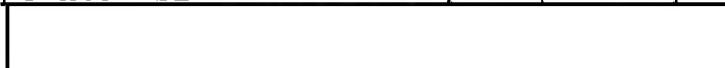
MOROCCO: The government has at last begun legal proceedings against high officials charged with corruption.

Although a number of high officials--including four ministers--were removed from their posts last spring for involvement in shady deals, moves to prosecute them were made only recently. The arrests of the four ministers and several other high officials were announced on 1 November, and the press has since reported that a fifth former minister also has been arrested.



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Whether this belated action to wipe out malfeasance in high places will be sufficient to renew public confidence in the King and his government is questionable. Many Moroccans are openly cynical about the thoroughness of the anti-corruption campaign, expecting that it will stop short of the royal family. The King's brother-in-law recently told Ambassador Rockwell, however, that the King was determined to rid the country of misconduct and inefficiency, even within the royal family, adding that this could not be accomplished overnight. American observers have been favorably impressed with the energy and enthusiasm of some of the young administrators appointed since the bloody coup attempt of 10 July.



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